

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of Docket No: Q78473  
Kazuhiro OMORI, et al. Allowed: June 10, 2010  
Appln. No.: 10/578,784 Group Art Unit: 1793  
Confirmation No.: 8701 Examiner: Ngoclan Thi MAI  
Filed: December 19, 2006

For: NIOBIUM POWDER FOR CAPACITOR, NIOBIUM SINTERED BODY AND CAPACITOR

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In a telephone conference of May 27, 2010, the undersigned authorized an Examiner's amendment to claims 1, 10, 22 and 31 in response to an Examiner initiated interview. Claims 1 and 10 were amended to recite that the particles comprise niobium not containing silicon nitride present at least in the center part, and claims 22 and 31 were amended to recite that the granulated powder or niobium sintered body comprises niobium not containing silicon nitride present at least in a portion other than an outer surface, so as to distinguish over US 2006/0279908 to Omori et al. Claims 1 and 10 were further amended to recite that the particles have a center part and a surface part for antecedent basis. Claims 1 and 10 were yet further amended to recite that the niobium powder comprises niobium primary particles, where the primary particles comprise niobium not containing silicon nitride present at least in the center part thereof. Claims 22 and 31 were further amended to recite that the granulated niobium

powder or the niobium sintered body has a porous structure, to provide antecedent basis for “in-pore surface.” As claimed in claims 1 and 10, the niobium not containing silicon nitride is present at least in the particle center part, and may also be present at the particle surface. As claimed in claim 22, the niobium not containing silicon nitride is necessarily present at least in a portion other than an outer surface, and may also be present at the surface. As claimed in claim 31, the niobium not containing silicon nitride is necessarily present at least in a portion other than an outer surface of the sintered body, and may also be present at the surface.

It is respectfully submitted that the instant STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW complies with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§1.2 and 1.133 and MPEP §713.04.

**It is believed that no petition or fee is required.** However, if the USPTO deems otherwise, Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: July 7, 2010